

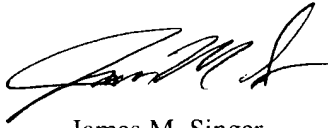
REMARKS

The changes above are made to correct the application for consistency with reference numerals in the drawings. No new matter has been added and entry is respectfully requested.

A favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James M. Singer', is written over the printed name.

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MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 79 is amended as follows

[0079] The purpose of steps **110**, **112**, **114** and **116** is to compute, within a particular area, shortest paths between the specified origin point and all the routers through which the destination could ultimately be reached. Note that when the destination address is associated with a route entry directly reachable from one or more of the routers in the source area, the route query typically terminates at this point. Specifically, when the destination address is associated with an "area-local" route entry, *i.e.*, a route entry associated with a network directly attached to one or more of the area routers, then the RQ determines that all shortest paths between the specified origin and the destination address lie within the area. An exemplary identification of shortest paths within an area can be found in FIG. 10. For example, referring to FIG. 10, if the specified destination address is [D1]as shown in box 73, *i.e.*, 133.40.15.7. In this case, step **114** of FIG. 9 above would return two shortest paths, namely, [S-R4-R5-D1]74-76-75-73 and [S-R4-R6-D1]74-76-79-73. Since the address associated with [D1]box 73 is "local", *i.e.*, both [R5]router 75 and [R6]router 79 are connected to subnet 133.40.15.0/24, the query process would stop there and those two paths would be returned.

Paragraph 81 is amended as follows:

[0081] Because destination **90** is not local to area **70**, the shortest path **76-82** needs to be extended out of area **70**. Note that since it is the only possible shortest path, there is no need to identify which shortest path is to be extended. The next step identifies area **71** as the area in which the shortest path needs to be extended, and router **82** represents the "origin" in area **71** from which the extension needs to be performed. The path extension carried out in area **71**

follows the same set of steps as those carried out when computing shortest paths within area **70**. It starts with a Route Query that identifies the route entry associated with the destination address **90** 134.34.21.142 in area **[71]72**. The route query again returns [134.34.2.0/24]134.34.21.0/24 and identifies router **94** as being able to reach the destination. The next step consists of computing a shortest path between routers **82** and **94** through area **71**. This returns one shortest path **82-96-94** with a distance (in area **71**) of two. When concatenated with the initial shortest path segment (**76-82**) computed in area **70**, this returns an extended path segment **76-82-96-94** with a total distance of three. Because destination **90** is still not local to area **71** the path extension process needs to be again repeated for the next area, area **72**. This eventually completes by returning the end-to-end path **76-82-96-94-98-99** that has a total distance of five.